



# **COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**

## *Department of Emergency Management*

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**DISASTER FIELD OFFICE  
5701 INDUSTRIAL PARK ROAD  
NORTON, VIRGINIA 24273  
FEMA-1411-DR-VA  
Commonwealth Situation Report #6  
Saturday, 11 May 2002**

**1. OPERATIONAL PERIOD:**

*1200 hours 10 May 2002 through 1200 hours 11 May 2002. (New information in italics)*

**2. SITUATION:**

On the evening of 28 April a severe weather system entered Virginia from the west and, once across the Blue Ridge Mountains, developed into a series of tornadoes. Local emergencies were declared in Bedford City, and Bedford, Campbell, Greensville, and Shenandoah Counties. On 2 May 2002, continuing severe weather impacted Virginia. Wind, rain and flood damage was again widespread with the most severe damage occurring in the southwest part of the state. In Buchanan County, heaviest damage was northeast of Grundy in the vicinity of Hurley, and was due to flash flooding and mudslides. Damaging floodwaters and strong winds also impacted nearby Tazewell County.

Local emergencies were declared in Bedford City and the counties of Bedford, Campbell, Shenandoah, and Greensville on 28 April 2002.

On 2 May 2002, Governor Warner declared a State of Emergency in the Commonwealth in response to the tornado damage on 28 April 2002. On 3 May 2002 the declaration was expanded to include the areas affected by the storms of 2 May.

Local emergencies were declared in Buchanan and Tazewell Counties on 2 May 2002.

On 3 May 2002, Governor Warner requested that President Bush declare a major disaster for Bedford, Campbell, Greensville, Shenandoah, Buchanan, Tazewell, Cumberland, and Prince Edward counties and for the cities of Colonial Heights and Bedford.

On 5 May 2002, President Bush declared a major disaster for the Commonwealth of Virginia in FEMA 1411-DR-VA in Buchanan and Tazewell Counties for Individual Assistance (IA) and Hazard Mitigation.

On 8 May 2002, the Major Disaster Declaration was amended to include Public Assistance for the counties of Buchanan and Tazewell.

Functions at the Wise DFO established in a prior declared disaster, DR-1406-VA, have been expanded to include operations for DR-1411-VA. The DFO hours of operation are 0800 hrs to 1630 hrs Monday through Saturday. The DFO will continue to be closed on Sundays. Situation Reports will be published daily.

In the flash flooding event in Hurley, Virginia, two deaths are confirmed, 0 missing. There have been 9 work related injuries reported. Power has been restored to 75-80 percent of the Hurley area. Telephone service is restored. Buchanan County schools have reopened but schools in Hurley will remain closed until further notice.

State agencies and other representatives on the scene include: Virginia State Police (VSP), Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM), Army National Guard (ANG), Virginia Department of Health (VDH), Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA), Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Army Corps of Engineers, Virginia Employment Commission (VEC), Veterans Administration (VA), American Red Cross (ARC), Virginia Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VVOAD), Cumberland Mountain Community Service Board, and clean up crews from the Virginia Southern Baptist Disaster Services, Virginia Department of Corrections(DOC), and Virginia Wilderness Institute.

### **3. WEATHER:**

*Sunday: Partly sunny, chance of thunderstorms afternoon & evening. Highs from 78 ° to 84 °, lows, 58 °-63 °, SW winds 10-15 MPH. Chance of showers 30% during the day, 50% in the evening.*

### **4. CURRENT PRIORITIES:**

- A. Complete FEMA-State Agreement.
- B. *Prepare for Community Meeting in Hurley.*
- C. *Integrate Americorps into the Hurley Recovery effort.*
- D. Assess housing needs and availability.
- E. *Assist in Hurley Recovery in Buchanan County.*

### **5. ONGOING ACTIONS/ISSUES:**

#### **A. Individual Assistance (IA):**

- A fixed Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) is located at the Hurley Elementary and Middle School on Route 643, in Hurley, Virginia as of Tuesday, 7 May 2002. Hours of operation are 0800 hrs to 1600 hrs seven days a week. Effective Monday, 13 May 2002, new hours of operation will be 0900 hrs through 1800 hrs seven days a week.
- The Tazewell DRC will be located in the Old County Administration Building, 315 School Street, Tazewell, VA 24651 as of Monday, 13 May 2002. *Hours of operation will be from 0900 to 1800 hrs 7 days a week.*
- Residents requiring disaster assistance are being referred to the FEMA teleregistration number, 1-800-621-3362, TTY 1-800-462-7585. These numbers are staffed 7 days a week, 0700 to 1900 hrs.

**DISASTER RECOVERY CENTER**  
**Daily Report**

Hurley, Buchanan County, May 2002

Date	Today's Recp.	Phone Bank	AA*	SBA*	HazMit*	IFG*	DUA*	CC*	IRS*	AGRI*	INS*	AGING*	VOL*	LEGAL*	Local Official	Paper Apps.
05/10	36	16	30	30	23	0	7	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	153	69	117	111	122	5	25	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18

\*Applicant Assistance (AA), Small Business Administration (SBA), Hazard Mitigation (HazMit), Individual & Family Grants (IFG), Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA), Crisis Counseling (CC), Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Department of Agriculture, Farm Services Bureau (AGRI), Insurance Help (INS), Aging Services (AGING), Volunteer Agencies (VOL), Legal Help (LEGAL)

- The State has a combination DRC Manager/ Donations Manager located at the Hurley DRC as of 10 May 2002.
- The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) has made food donations to Knox Food Pantry and has clarified recipient eligibility with the Food Pantry.
- A Hurley community meeting will be held on Thursday, 16 May 2002 at 1900 hrs at the Hurley Middle School. Hurley and Buchanan residents will be able to talk to Federal and Commonwealth Officials about issues related to recovery.
- Red Cross is distributing meals prepared by the Virginia Baptists. *Meals served totals 9,120, five shelters have been opened, 136 people have been sheltered, a service center has been activated and there have been 60 mental health contacts to date.* Red Cross Family Services staff is located on the second floor of the high school in Hurley adjacent to the DRC site as of 9 May 2002 and is fielding outreach service teams in the area.
- Bulk deliveries of donated items will now be received at the Schell Building in Grundy, Virginia and will be staffed by Seventh Day Adventist volunteers, expected to arrive on Sunday, 12 May 2002.
- The Regional Health Department has administered 787 tetanus shots to residents and workers at the Hurley Middle School. Hours for the clinic for 11 May 2002 will be from 1000 hrs to 1300 hrs.
- Food and water is being distributed at the school; 3200 gallons of potable water available for distribution to disaster victims in Hurley. More will be made available as needed.
- The Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA) is assisting Buchanan County in finding housing for victims.
- The Virginia Health Department continues its "boil water" advisory for the Hurley area and is providing information on restarting wells.
- Donations are being received at the Hurley Middle School. No more clothing donations are being accepted. Cash donations are being accepted by the Clinch Independent Living Services, PO Box 2741, Grundy, Virginia 24614. Requested items include cleaning supplies, personal hygiene products, diapers, food, rakes and shovels, and work gloves.
- The Human Services Program Summary as of COB 10 May 2002 follows:

**REGISTRATIONS & CONTACTS**

	<i>Since Last Report</i>	<i>Designated Cities/Counties</i>	<i>Undesignated Counties</i>	<i>Cumulative</i>
<i>Teleregistrations</i>	67	774/1	12	787
<i>Helpline Calls</i>	30			97

**Disaster Unemployment Assistance**

<i>CLAIMS</i>	<i>SINCE LAST REPORT</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
<i>Filed</i>		
<i>Approved</i>		
<i>Paid (#)</i>		
<i>Paid (\$)</i>		

**Disaster Housing Program**

<i>REGISTRATIONS</i>	<i>SINCE LAST REPORT</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
<i>Received</i>	63	689
<i>Approved</i>	35	116
<i>Pending</i>	17	544
<i>Approved Eligible (\$)</i>	\$86,717.21	\$222,595.52
<i>ASSISTANCE CHECKS</i>		
<i>Recommended (#)</i>	55	66
<i>Recommended (\$)</i>	\$110,719	\$131,158

**Individual & Family Grant Program**

<i>REGISTRATIONS</i>	<i>SINCE LAST REPORT</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
<i>Received</i>	35	385
<i>Received by State</i>		
<i>Pending Decision</i>		
<i>Eligible (#)</i>		
<i>Eligible (\$)</i>		
<i>Disbursed (#)</i>		
<i>Disbursed (\$)</i>		

**Small Business Administration\***

<i>LOAN APPLICATIONS</i>	<i>HOME</i>	<i>BUSINESS</i>	<i>ECONOMIC INJURY (EIDL)</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
<i>Issued</i>	314	81	0	395
<i>Received</i>	13	3	3	19
<i>Declined</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Withdrawn</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Approved (#)</i>	5	0	0	5
<i>Approved (\$)</i>	\$68,900	0	0	\$68,900
<i>Pending</i>	8	3	3	14

\* SBA figures are as of COB 11 May 2002.

- The Virginia Bar Association has activated a toll-free Disaster Legal Services Number, 1-800-552-7977, to provide emergency legal services to disaster victims.
- Cumberland Mountain Community Service Board is functioning out of the Hurley DRC and is providing Mental Health, Crisis Counseling, and Critical Stress Debriefing services as needed.

- Disaster assistance for Buchanan County has been expanded to include Emergency Food Stamps. Applications will be accepted 13 May 2002 through 17 from 0830 hrs to 1600 hrs at the Social Security office on Route 83 at Slate Creek. Contact for information is Buchanan County Social Services at 276-935-8106.
- A phone bank has been established to coordinate volunteer groups offering assistance. Volunteers can call 276-935-7419; identify nature of call, what services they wish to perform, and a callback number.

**B. Public Assistance (PA)**

- The National Guard was activated 3 May 2002 and assisted by installing temporary bridges. Later assistance has been and continues to be in debris clearance in the Hurley area, with deployment through 17 May 2002.
- Lebanon VDOT reports all thoroughfares in the Hurley area are in use, both directions as of 9 May 2002. Highway repair crews working in specific areas require one-way traffic for intermittent periods of time.

**C. Community Relations (CR):**

- Three (3) FEMA Field Officers are deployed, one in Tazewell County and two in the Hurley community and other related areas.
- One VDEM Field Officer is deployed and teamed with a CR Field Officer in the Hurley area.
- VDEM Flood Recovery Bulletins, 1-800 and DRC flyers, and *FEMA Recovery Times* are being distributed throughout affected areas in Buchanan County.
- Audiotapes of disaster assistance information are available.
- A temporary Post Office for Hurley will be set up in Blakely at the Blakely Teen Center and is scheduled to open Friday, 10 May 2002. Postal authority advises that Social Security checks saved from the flood will be distributed at that time. All mail gathering in Grundy will be distributed at the temporary facility. Mail to Hurley residents should use the normal Hurley address.
- A location for a temporary banking facility in Hurley is in the process of being identified.
- Individuals unable to work because of severe storms and flooding in Southwest Virginia may file for Disaster Unemployment Assistance at the nearest VEC field office by no later than 10 June 2002.

**D. Hazard Mitigation (HM):**

- State Hazard Mitigation staff is scheduled to view Hurley area in the near future.
- *Data is being extracted from study maps and data set from Army Corps of Engineers to assist Buchanan County to become compliant with NFIP reconstruction and renovation.*
- *Survey of stream damage in Buchanan & Tazewell Counties by NRCS anticipated week of 20 May.*
- Draft of Administrative & Hazard Mitigation strategy plan will be drafted for submission to the DFO/SCO week of 13 May.

**E. Public Affairs Office (PAO):**

- Recovery Times has been updated for Tazewell and Buchanan Counties and will be available for distribution 11 May 2002.
- Issued news releases regarding Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) *eligibility for affected residents in Buchanan and Tazewell Counties and the 10 June 2002 deadline for filing with VEC*; opening & hours for Tazewell DRC; and new hours for the Buchanan County (Hurley) DRC.
- Issued “*Potential Hazards Lurk in Debris*” news release for consumer safety.

**F. Legislative Liaison:**

- Governor Mark Warner, US Senator George Allen, State Senator Phil Puckett and State Delegate Jackie Stump visited disaster areas in central Virginia and in the community of Hurley in Buchanan County and Tazewell County on 6 May 2002.
- Advised State legislators whose districts include Buchanan and Tazewell Counties of the Federal Declaration for Public Assistance for these counties.

**G. Hazardous Materials:**

- Residents who find HazMat containers, drums, or spills on their property are being encouraged to call 276-566-8524 and regional HazMat responders will assess the situation and take corrective measures.
- Significant HazMat operations are ongoing in Buchanan County. HazMat Teams from Wise County, Giles County and City of Salem have worked nearly 1,000 hours since the beginning of the event. Items collected include 10-20 lb., 10-100 lb., 11 large (100-500 lb.) propane tanks, 8-35 gal. drums, 54-55 gal. drums, 27-65 gal. drums, 7-275 gal. tanks, 8-550 gal. tanks, 2-1,000 gal. tanks, numerous 5-gal. containers, 2 gas pumps and miscellaneous pesticides. Team members continue to walk the Knox and Right Fork Creeks in the Hurley area; more than 32 miles of waterway have been searched. A HazMat command post has been established adjacent to the DRC in Hurley. Local propane companies have assisted by removing tanks from the area.

*jh/db*

11 May 2002

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**Michael M. Cline, SCO**